

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Title:** Cosumnes River Preserve Management PlanLead Agency: California Department of Fish and GameContact Person: Armand GonzalesMailing Address: 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite APhone: 916-358-2876City: Rancho CordovaZip: 95670County: Sacramento**Project Location:**County: Sacramento/San JoaquinCity/Nearest Community: GaltTotal Acres: 46,000Cross Streets: Interstate 5 and Franklin Blvd.Zip Code: 95632Assessor's Parcel No. See attached

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp. \_\_\_\_\_

Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Interstate 5Waterways: Cosumnes River

Airports: \_\_\_\_\_

Railways: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Document Type:**CEQA: ☐ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement to EIR (Note prior SCH # below)☐ EA☐ Final Document☒ Neg Dec☐ Subsequent EIR (Note prior SCH # below)☐ Draft EIS☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_☐ Mit Neg Dec☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_☐ FONSI**Local Action Type:**☐ General Plan Update☐ Specific Plan☐ Rezone☐ Annexation☐ General Plan Amendment☐ Master Plan☐ Prezone☐ Redevelopment☐ General Plan Element☐ Planned Unit Development☐ Use Permit☐ Coastal Permit☐ Community Plan☐ Site Plan☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)☒ Other Management Plan**Development Type:**☐ Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_☐ Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_☐ Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_☐ Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_☐ Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_☐ Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW \_\_\_\_\_☐ Educational \_\_\_\_\_☐ Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_☐ Recreational \_\_\_\_\_☐ Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**☒ Aesthetic/Visual☐ Fiscal☒ Recreation/Parks☒ Vegetation☒ Agricultural Land☒ Flood Plain/Flooding☐ Schools/Universities☒ Water Quality☒ Air Quality☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard☐ Septic Systems☒ Water Supply/Groundwater☒ Archeological/Historical☒ Geologic/Seismic☐ Sewer Capacity☒ Wetland/Riparian☒ Biological Resources☒ Minerals☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading☐ Growth Inducement☐ Coastal Zone☒ Noise☐ Solid Waste☒ Land Use☒ Drainage/Absorption☐ Population/Housing Balance☒ Toxic/Hazardous☐ Cumulative Effects☐ Economic/Jobs☐ Public Services/Facilities☒ Traffic/Circulation☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

Sacramento County: Agriculture, cropland; San Joaquin County: Agriculture

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)

This plan will protect and enhance key habitats and species within the Cosumnes River watershed in southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Counties, California through implementation of the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve) Management Plan. The proposed project includes adoption of goals, objectives, and management Projects listed in the Management Plan (attached), as refined and modified based on input from each of the Preserve's implementing partners and the general public.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

September 2005

# Reviewing Agencies Checklist

continued

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reclamation Board
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry & Fire Protection	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board	
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

## Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date January 25, 2008 Ending Date February 25, 2008

## Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Lead Agency Representative  Date 1/25/08





**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

North Central Region

1701 Nimbus Road Suite A.

Rancho Cordova,, CA 95670

(916)358-2900 (916)358-2912 fax

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>



**DATE:** January 25, 2008

**TO:** Responsible Agencies. Interested Parties. and Organizations

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve) Management Plan. Sacramento County. California.

**Project Location:** The Preserve covers approximately 46,000 acres in southern Sacramento County within portions of six townships: T5N, R4E; T5N, R5E; T5N, R6E; T6N, R4E; T6N, R5E; and T6N, R6E (Most section lines in these townships have not been surveyed. The Preserve is situated approximately 15 miles south of Sacramento, and 25 miles north of Stockton the State Highway 99 corridor.

**Description of the Proposed Project:** The California Department of Fish and Game (Department), as Lead Agency, has directed the preparation of and intends to adopt an IS/ND for the proposed project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. The project being proposed is the adoption and implementation of the Management Plan.

The Preserve's mission is to protect and enhance riparian forest, freshwater wetland, vernal pool grassland, oak woodland, and agricultural lands within the Cosumnes River watershed in order to preserve native biodiversity and benefit declining, threatened and endangered species of wildlife and plants and to provide compatible public use and recreation. The preparation and implementation of a Management Plan is needed to coordinate and guide the management activities of all of the Preserve's implementing partners, which includes Federal, State and County agencies, private, non-profit conservation organizations, and private land owners. The Plan will also serve as the foundation of the Preserve's Annual Work Plans and the basis for future consultation with State and Federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of management activities on the threatened and endangered species.

**The intent of the proposed Project:** to adopt and implement over the next 10 years the Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan. In general, the proposed Project would provide for

1. long-term protection, enhancement, and management of ecological values, ecosystem function, and wildlife habitat in the planning area;
2. Public use, environmental education, and outreach would be secondary and supplementary to the primary ecological/ecosystem goals;
3. Management Projects including future land protection through fee title acquisition and conservation easements, habitat management, habitat restoration, facilities and

equipment maintenance, research and monitoring, education and outreach, public uses, law enforcement, resource planning, policy monitoring and reform, farming operations, and visual and cultural resource issues.

The IS/ND describes the project and its potential impacts on the environment, and concludes that the proposed project would not have any significant effects on the environment.

**Public Review Period:** The Management Plan and IS/ND is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days beginning on January 28, 2008. Your views and comments on the Management Plan and how the project may affect the environment are welcomed. Written comments must be postmarked no later than February 25, 2008, and should be submitted to the following address:

Armand Gonzales, Wildlife Program Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
North Central Region  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Copies of the Management Plan and the incorporated IS/ND may be reviewed on the Department's website <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/news/pubnotice/>, at the above address, and at the following locations during normal business hours:

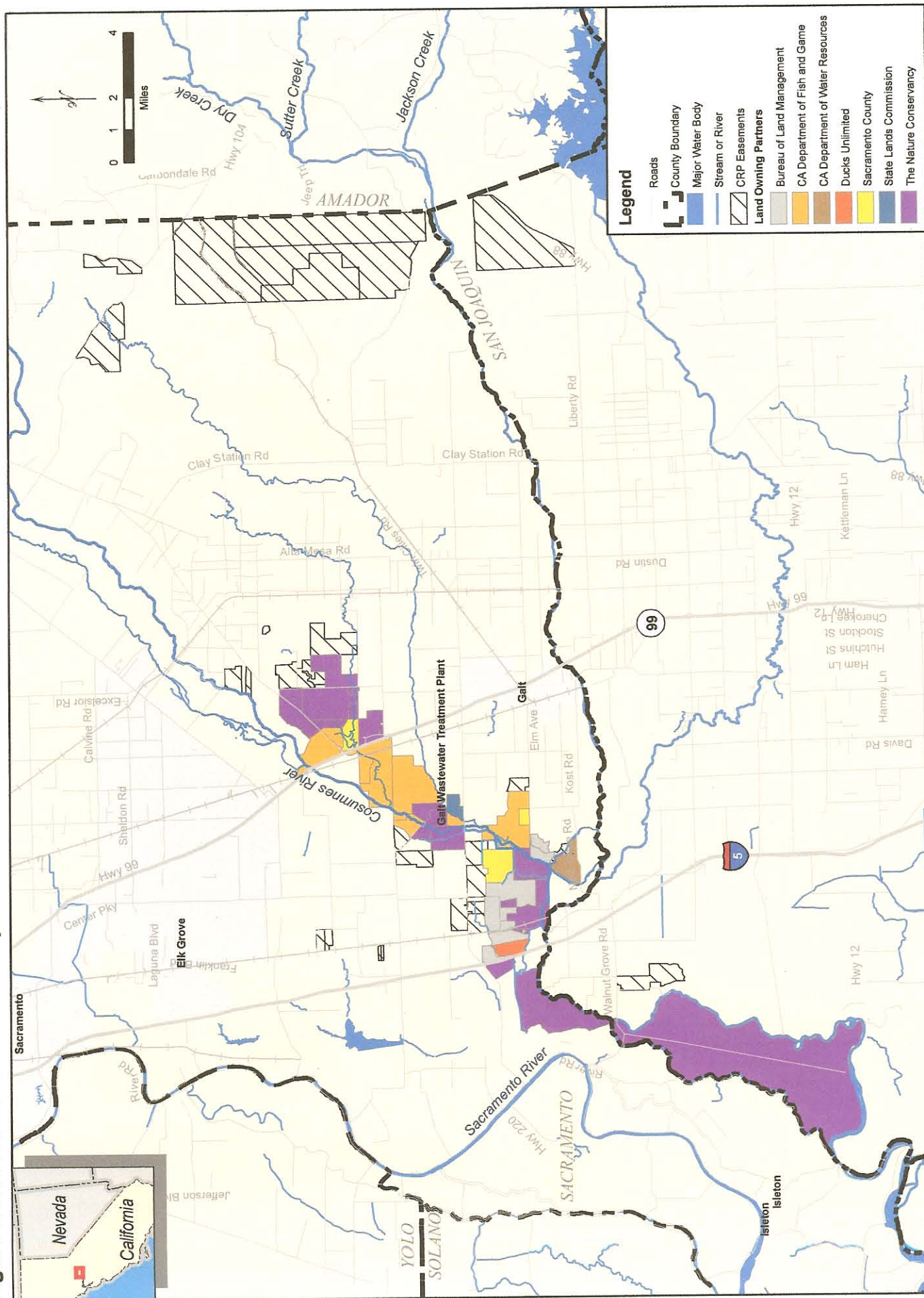
Cosumnes River Preserve  
13501 Franklin Blvd.  
Galt, CA 95632  
(916) 684-2816

Department of Fish and Game  
Bay-Delta Region  
4001 North Wilson Way  
Stockton, CA 95206

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters  
45211 County Road 32B  
Davis, CA 95816



Figure 7.1: Preserve Land Ownership



## Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project title: Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve) Management Plan.  
This plan will protect and enhance key habitats and species within the Cosumnes River watershed in southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Counties, California through implementation of the Cosumnes River Preserve (Preserve) Management Plan. The proposed project includes adoption of goals, objectives, and management Projects listed in the Management Plan (attached), as refined and modified based on input from each of the Preserve's implementing partners and the general public.
2. Lead agency name and address:  
  
North Central Region  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670
3. Contact person and phone number:  
Armand Gonzales, Wildlife Program Manager, (916) 358-2876
4. Project location:  
Southern Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin Counties within portions of six townships: T5N, R4E; T5N, R5E; T5N, R6E; T6N, R4E; T6N, R5E; and T6N, R6E (Most section lines in these townships have not been surveyed. The Preserve is situated approximately 15 miles south of Sacramento, and 25 miles north of Stockton the State Highway 99 corridor.
5. Project sponsor's name and address:  
  
North Central Region  
California Department of Fish and Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, Ca 95670



## Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

6. General plan designation:  
Sacramento County: Agriculture/Cropland;  
Resource conservation  
San Joaquin County: Agriculture
7. Zoning:  
Sacramento County: Agriculture,  
Water, Open Space.  
San Joaquin County: AG 40
8. Description of project: (Describe the whole Project involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The Preserve is a 46,000-acre preserve whose mission is to protect and enhance riparian forest, freshwater wetland, vernal pool grassland, oak woodland, and agricultural lands within the Cosumnes River watershed in order to preserve native biodiversity and benefit declining, threatened and endangered species of wildlife and plants and to provide compatible public use and recreation. The preparation and implementation of a Management Plan is needed to coordinate and guide the management activities of all of the Preserve's implementing partners, which includes Federal, State and County agencies, private, non-profit conservation organizations, and private land owners. The Plan will also serve as the foundation of the Preserve's Annual Work Plans and the basis for future consultation with State and Federal agencies to evaluate the impacts of management activities on the threatened and endangered species.

The proposed Project is to adopt and implement over the next 10 years the Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan. In general, the proposed Project would provide for long-term protection, enhancement, and management of ecological values, ecosystem function, and wildlife habitat in the planning area. Public use, environmental education, and outreach would be secondary and supplementary to the primary ecological/ecosystem goals. Management Projects addressed in this proposed Project include future land protection through fee title acquisition and conservation easements, habitat management, habitat restoration, facilities and equipment maintenance, research and monitoring, education and outreach, public uses, law enforcement, resource planning, policy monitoring and reform, farming operations, and visual and cultural resource issues. These Projects are described in detail in the Management Plan.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:

The Cosumnes River watershed encompasses over 830,000 acres (1,297 square miles) and contains over 2,000 linear miles of natural waterways. Elevations range from a peak of 7,500 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountain area of Amador County to a low of slightly below mean sea level where the river terminates at the confluence with the Mokelumne River, just before flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Several tributaries drain into the lower portion of the Cosumnes River watershed near the Preserve, including Deer Creek, Badger Creek, and Laguna Creek. The Cosumnes River watershed includes portions Sacramento, El Dorado, and Amador Counties. The Preserve also manages property located in the adjacent watershed of the Mokelumne River located in San Joaquin County. The proposed project footprint overlaps with the Elk Grove NCCP, Southern Sacramento County NCCP; is in conformance with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) *Sierra Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM 2007) and the *Sierra Planning Area Management Framework Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment* (BLM 1988). The proposed project also provides for, per section 7(a)(1) of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the implementation of recovery projects for Federal and State-listed species described in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2006), *Draft Recovery Plan For The Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 1999), and *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1996).
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

The project involves implementation of the Management Plan. The Management Plan was developed in coordination with the Preserve Partners including the The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Sacramento County, U.S. Bureau Of Land Management, California Department of Water Resources, and the California Department of Fish and Game. A Cooperative Management Agreement for the Cosumnes River Preserve (Agreement No. 97-1371-B-80978, dated April 1994) guides the activities, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and identifies individual interests of participating organizations. The agreement is being reviewed and updated for implementation concurrently with the final Management Plan.



Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

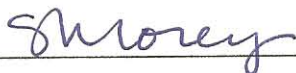
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources              | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services               | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |   |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature



Date

Sandra Morey, Regional Manager

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. No mitigation projects would be necessary in the adoption and implementation of the Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan. Specific management projects that are proposed in the Management Plan for the next 10 years that may have a significant adverse effect on the environment would be given the appropriate NEPA consideration prior to their implementation. At that time, any necessary mitigation would be designed into the specific project to reduce any adverse effects on the environment.
2. CEQA Guidelines Section 15300, Categorical Exemptions provides, pursuant to Section 21084 of the Public Resources Code, a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. The following classes of projects listed may be planned in the future and are considered to not have a significant effect on the environment; therefore they are declared to be categorically exempt from the requirements for preparation of environmental documents.
  - a. 15301. Existing Facilities (Class 1) consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.
  - b. 15302. Replacement or Reconstruction (Class 2) consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced
  - c. 15304. Minor Alterations to Land (Class 4) consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:
    - i. (d) Minor alterations in land, water, and vegetation on existing officially designated wildlife management areas or fish production facilities which result in improvement of habitat for fish and wildlife resources or greater fish production;
    - ii. (f) Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored;
    - iii. (g) Maintenance dredging where the spoil is deposited in a spoil area authorized by all applicable state and federal regulatory agencies;
    - iv. (i) Fuel management activities within 30 feet of structures to reduce the



volume of flammable vegetation, provided that the activities will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. This exemption shall apply to fuel management activities within 100 feet of a structure if the public agency having fire protection responsibility for the area has determined that 100 feet of fuel clearance is required due to extra hazardous fire conditions.

- d. 15307. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources (Class 7) consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Examples include but are not limited to wildlife preservation activities of the State Department of Fish and Game. Construction activities are not included in this exemption.
- e. 15308. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment (Class 8) consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption.
- f. 15317. Open Space Contracts or Easements (Class 17) consists of the establishment of agricultural preserves, the making and renewing of open space contracts under the Williamson Act, or the acceptance of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area. The cancellation of such preserves, contracts, interests, or easements is not included and will normally be an action subject to the CEQA process.
- g. 15321. Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies (Class 21) consists of: (a) Actions by regulatory agencies to enforce or revoke a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use issued, adopted, or prescribed by the regulatory agency or enforcement of a law, general rule, standard, or objective, administered or adopted by the regulatory agency. Such actions include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) The direct referral of a violation of lease, permit, license, certificate, or entitlement for use or of a general rule, standard, or objective to the Attorney General, District Attorney, or City Attorney as appropriate, for judicial enforcement; (2) The adoption of an administrative decision or order enforcing or revoking the lease, permit, license, certificate, or entitlement for use or



- enforcing the general rule, standard, or objective. (b) Law enforcement activities by peace officers acting under any law that provides a criminal sanction; (c) Construction activities undertaken by the public agency taking the enforcement or revocation action are not included in this exemption.
- h. 15323. Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings (Class 23) consists of the normal operations of existing facilities for public gatherings for which the facilities were designed, where there is a past history of the facility being used for the same or similar kind of purpose. For the purposes of this section, "past history" shall mean that the same or similar kind of activity has been occurring for at least three years and that there is a reasonable expectation that the future occurrence of the activity would not represent a change in the operation of the facility. Facilities included within this exemption include, but are not limited to, racetracks, stadiums, convention centers, auditoriums, amphitheaters, planetariums, swimming pools, and amusement parks.
  - i. 15325. Transfers of Ownership of Interest In Land to Preserve Existing Natural Conditions and Historical Resources (Class 25) consists of the transfers of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - j. (a) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer of areas to preserve the existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. (b) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer of areas to allow continued agricultural use of the areas. (c) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer to allow restoration of natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats. (d) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer to prevent encroachment of development into flood plains. (e) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer to preserve historical resources. (f) Acquisition, sale, or other transfer to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.
  - k. 15333. Small Habitat Restoration Projects (Class 33) consists of projects not to exceed five acres in size to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife provided that: (a) There would be no significant adverse impact on endangered, rare or threatened species or their habitat Pursuant to section 15065, (b) There are no hazardous materials at or around the project site that may be disturbed or removed, and (c) The project will not result in impacts that are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. (d) Examples of small restoration projects may include, but are not limited to: (1) revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species; (2) wetland



restoration, the primary purpose of which is to improve conditions for waterfowl or other species that rely on wetland habitat; (3) stream or river bank revegetation, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat for amphibians or native fish; (4) projects to restore or enhance habitat that are carried out principally with hand labor and not mechanized equipment. (5) stream or river bank stabilization with native vegetation or other bioengineering techniques, the primary purpose of which is to reduce or eliminate erosion and sedimentation; and (6) culvert replacement conducted in accordance with published guidelines of the Department of Fish and Game or NOAA Fisheries, the primary purpose of which is to improve habitat or reduce sedimentation.

# Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

## ISSUES:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:</b>				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Cosumnes River Preserve is a major visual resource for the south Sacramento County area from a variety of perspectives. From a distance the distinct forested landscape appears as a natural wooded area in marked contrast to the surrounding agricultural and urban landscapes. From within the Preserve visitors experience a sense of visual enclosure from trails that traverse natural areas and especially from within the forests along the River Walk trail. No impacts to the aesthetics qualities of the area are anticipated.

**II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES:** In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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# Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The proposed project will help to control the invasion and proliferation of invasive non native weeds in order to protect natural habitat and increase the overall native biodiversity in the Cosumnes River watershed. Habitat restoration will occur in areas prone to flooding and therefore are less suitable for productive agriculture. These areas were originally converted from habitat to agriculture and have been farmed or grazed on and off over a period of time. Many areas previously farmed have been fallow for many years and are currently overgrown with exotic vegetation covered with trash and debris. We may lease portions of the area for farming which will generate income to be used for ongoing maintenance and habitat improvements at the Preserve. No impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated.

**III. AIR QUALITY** -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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# Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project to adopt and implement the Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan may, over the long-term assist in the improvement of air quality within the Central Valley of California. As more habitat is created or restored at the Preserve, the Preserve will contribute significant increases in the amount of carbon and nitrogen sequestration as well as contribute substantially to the amount of clean air production. However, if the Preserve is able to use prescribed fire under close coordination with the Air Quality District as one of its tools to reduce fuel loads and improve habitat quality, there may be short-term losses to the amount of positive benefit received from the proposed project. All applicable air quality standards will be met under stipulation and conditions contained in burn permits obtained from the California Air Resources Board. Vegetation decomposition processes have the potential to naturally produce methane gas which may vent unpleasant odors to nearby areas. Potential impacts to air quality are expected to be less than significant.

## IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Preserve hosts a rich and wide variety of wildlife species that inhabit wetland, upland, vernal pool, grassland and riparian areas of the Preserve. There are 295 species known to occur at the Preserve, including 247 species of birds, 30 species of mammals, and 18 species of amphibians and reptiles.

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The Project area is situated near other landscape conservation planning efforts including the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP); the San Joaquin County Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP); the Yolo County NCCP; the Bay Delta HCP/NCCP.

Many of the species that commonly occur at the Preserve are not specifically managed for as part of the Preserve’s overall management strategy. However, these species benefit from habitat that is created, restored or preserved as part of the Preserve’s projects and continued management. These species include black tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), California vole (*Microtus californicus*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), redwing blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*).

The lower Cosumnes River watershed hosts a variety of special-status wildlife species including those wildlife species that have been designated as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern, or is proposed for listing (*i.e.*, candidate species) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Special-status species known to occur on the Cosumnes River Preserve include vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), greater sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis tabida*), and Swainson’s hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).

Forty fish species are found in the Cosumnes River Preserve including a diverse variety of native and non-native species. Several species have been designated as special-status species by NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and/or California Department of Fish and Game due to concern over their declining numbers. These species include fall-run



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chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*), hardhead (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*), and Sacramento perch (*Archoplites interruptus*). Two special-status species, hardhead and speckled dace, have likely been extirpated from the Cosumnes River. The remaining 26 (65%) fish species have been introduced to California water bodies, either intentionally or unintentionally.

Threatened and endangered species (T&E): The proposed project will help to fulfill part of the Preserve's mission to conserve, in perpetuity, rare species and communities of the Central Valley of California, including federal and state listed species such as the giant garter snake, sandhill crane, Swainson's hawk, and vernal pool plants and branchipods. However, there may be occasions when temporary affects to these species may result as a matter of implementing management practices or habitat restoration projects. In order to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate for potential impacts on T&E species, the Preserve Partners will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for particular projects that may result in temporary impacts to the rare species and communities.

Habitat restoration and management activities may temporarily disrupt the movement patters of listed species. Ground disturbing activities will be individually reviewed to determine the potential for impacts including the take of listed species. The Partners will consult with appropriate State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies, and all avoidance measures recommended through the permitting process will be implemented prior to any activity that may have the potential to impact a listed, sensitive, or rare species of plant, invertebrate, fish, or wildlife species. Potential impacts to biological resources are anticipated to be less than significant.

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

There are nearly 180 archaeological sites within the Cosumnes River floodplain that are recorded in the California Historical Resources Information System. Of these, almost 160 are prehistoric/ethnographic sites of Native American origin; 18 date to the historic period (including both archaeological remains and standing structures); and 3 are dual-component prehistoric/historic-period sites. There is one registered national historic landmark, the McFarland Ranch, as well as parts of the forested areas that are registered as national natural landmarks.

Currently two Native American tribes come to the Preserve to collect native plant materials for ceremonial headdress, basketry and traditional building materials for structures.

**Cultural resources and Native American concerns:** The potential for significant cultural resources including paleontological resources, prehistoric era (focuses on Native American resources, specifically Miwok), Spanish/Mexican era, early American era (Gold Rush and farming), and modern history of conservation projects occur at the Preserve. The proposed project includes compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other cultural resource laws and executive orders in advance of any projects with potential adverse effects to cultural resources. It also includes proactive projects to work more closely with persons and organizations interested in cultural and historic resources at the Preserve. Projects at the Preserve that may affect cultural and historic resources include building and maintaining trails, parking lots, and other facilities for public access; implementing habitat creation and restoration projects, continuation of agricultural operations, and day-to-day operational projects. At the Preserve, there are major sources of natural or historic resources



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that are of interest to Native Americans and the Preserve's mission and goals will help to provide these people and organizations with natural sources for plants that may be important for religious or medicinal purposes.

Habitat restoration and management activities have the potential to disrupt cultural or archeological sites if restoration and management activities occur in areas not previously known to have cultural or archeological sites. Prior to any ground disturbing activity, a thorough review of the site and historical records including the California Historical Resources Information System will take place and all required avoidance measures will be implemented. Potential impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to be less than significant.

#### VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefy or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Preserve lands host a variety of soil types ranging from clay hardpan to sandy loam. The following soil units are included within the project area, the San Joaquin, Columbia-Cosumnes, Egbert-Valpac, Dierssen, and the Sailboat-Scribner-Cosumnes soil series. The majority of the soils within the project area are Columbia-Cosumnes and San Joaquin soils.

Farming occurs on over 13,000 acres on the Cosumnes River Preserve, and approximately 2,000 acres of additional farmland have been protected through conservation easements. Of the total 13,000 acres in agricultural production, approximately 10,000 acres are managed to be compatible with wildlife. Grazing currently occurs on nearly 3,000 acres of annual grasslands in the Preserve. In addition, well over 15,000 acres of vernal pool grassland are grazed on lands held under a conservation easement.

Minor landslides, erosion, and levee breaches have the potential to occur during severe



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flooding events on the Preserve and the surrounding area. Implementation of the Management Plan will have a beneficial effect as a result of vegetation maintenance, channel clearing, and levee maintenance. Habitat restoration will allow greater capacity for flood flows which will help protect Preserve and neighboring farmland and communities from the effects of localized flooding. As flood flows recede, some erosion and minor ground movement is expected although because major topographical features (i.e. elevational gradient) are absent from the site, the potential for impacts is considered less than significant.

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:**

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

There is a wide variety of fuel types and structure at the Preserve which include grass, shrub and tree species. The Cosumnes River Preserve has routinely used prescribed fire for weed control and to reduce built up vegetation. In addition, wildfires occur annually on Preserve lands caused by a variety of sources ranging from vehicle-caused fires to bird strikes at power lines. The affected fuels for the project include dried vegetation including native and non-native grasses, shrubs including Himalayan blackberry, coyote bush, wild grape, Elderberry and poison oak. Native trees also included are Oregon ash, valley oak, live oak, box elder, cottonwood, California buckeye, and willows. A variety of exotic trees such as fig, tree of heaven, Osage orange, honey locust, black locust, and cherry plum which have been killed by



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previous eradication efforts also serve as standing dry or ladder fuels.

The Preserves uses herbicides and pesticides for vegetation and pest management. The use is directed by the DFG in compliance with recommended uses and in coordination with the County Agriculture Department. Use of herbicides and pesticides is considered categorically exempt from CEQA.

Potential impacts resulting from hazards and hazardous materials are anticipated to be less than significant.

#### VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Cosumnes River watershed covers approximately 940 square miles (approximately 600,000 acres), from its headwaters in the Sierra Nevada to its confluence with the Mokelumne River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The river remains as the only river flowing to the Central Valley in California with out major dams.

The river segment from Highway 16 down to the tidal floodplains consists of a continuum of highly incised meandering channel lined with agricultural levees and limited riparian vegetation in the upper reaches, to less incision in the lower reaches where discontinuous low-



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levees and riparian forests flank the channel. The tidal floodplain area includes the portion of the Cosumnes River from the confluence with the Mokelumne River, upstream to the limits of tidal influence near Twin Cities Road bridge. Much of the tidally influenced floodplain is farm fields protected by low levees that do not prevent seasonal flooding or contained within the existing boundaries of the Preserve. In addition to the mainstem Cosumnes River, several tributaries drain into the lower watershed: Deer Creek, Badger Creek, and Laguna Creek.

Winter storms account for about 80% of the annual precipitation in the Cosumnes River watershed. The Cosumnes River watershed typically does not receive significant amounts of snowfall because of its low peak elevation and, therefore, most floods are caused by intense rainfall events.

Groundwater is typically found in distinct shallow and deep aquifer zones ranging in depth between 200 and 2,000 feet below the ground surface level. Historically, the input of groundwater to the river channel kept the channel and associated wetland areas wet throughout the summer for the entire length of the river. Over the past 60 years, however, groundwater pumping has reduced groundwater levels in the valley segment, leading to a decline of groundwater input to the river.

***Floodplains, water quality, wetlands and riparian zones:*** Because the proposed project promotes the protection and restoration of natural habitat, the Preserve is invaluable in terms of its contribution towards proper ecosystem function through natural processes such as seasonal flooding. This component of the Preserve's management promotes the protection of a more natural hydrologic cycle within the Cosumnes River watershed by ensuring areas of the floodplain receive adequate deposition of sediment and debris while reducing the likelihood of catastrophic flooding elsewhere. Additionally, protection and restoration of natural habitat and ecosystem function within the Cosumnes River watershed has a positive effect on the health of the watershed and water quality by filtering debris and contaminants.

Impacts to the hydrology and water quality of the area are anticipated to be less than significant.

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<b>IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The current landscape of Central Valley, including the lower Cosumnes watershed, consists largely of agriculture, especially intensively managed irrigated crops. However, the Central Valley is one of California's more rapidly growing regions, gaining nearly two million more residents in the 1980's and 90's. In the last several years the Sacramento region has experienced explosive growth, with urban expansion driving further south and east. The City of Elk Grove is planning to expand beyond the existing Urban Service Boundary to as far south as Eschinger Road. The City of Galt is located to the east of the Preserve. The city has been working on a General Plan update with ideas of expanding northward, however, they have made few inroads with the agricultural community on this issue. Thornton is an unincorporated town located south of the Preserve in San Joaquin County. Like other towns in the area, there is mounting pressure for new growth and development and land speculation in the area has increased. Impacts to land use and planning are anticipated to be less than significant.



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**X. MINERAL RESOURCES --** Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Under the Management Plan the Preserve will be managed for its ecological value with the goal to utilize stewardship and compatible ranching and farming activities as methods to sustain native plant and wildlife communities and the processes that perpetuate a dynamic mosaic of habitats. Mineral resources present on Preserve lands will not be readily available for public use. Nevertheless, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to mineral resources.

**XI. NOISE --** Would the project result in:

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Noise from habitat restoration activities may occur but are not expected to be greater than ongoing farming activities although there may be periodic high intensity noise generated from farming or other heavy equipment associated with restoration and management activities. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts as a result of increases in ambient noise.

## XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to population and housing.

## XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The Preserve has an active education program and is currently a field trip destination for over 10,000 K-12 students annually. In addition 3000 K-12 students are involved in service learning projects, and more than 10 higher education field trips are attended by local and visiting colleges annually. In addition the Cosumnes River Preserve is used by graduate and undergraduate college students for research projects. The Preserve also has an active Volunteer program with several sub groups and a total of over 120 volunteers.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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#### XIV. RECREATION

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

In general, passive recreational activities, such as bird watching, photography, nature study, hiking and paddling, are encouraged at the Preserve. Designated areas have been set aside for hunting. Fishing is only allowed from a boat in State waterways. The Visitor Center is the focal point for the majority of public access and education at the Preserve. Universally accessible trails offer visitors an up-close experience into lush marshes, wetland plants, water birds, insects, and amphibians. The Cosumnes River Preserve also offers canoeing and kayaking opportunities as well as a self-guided driving tour throughout the public road system. Potential impacts to recreation are not anticipated to be adverse or significant.

#### XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|



# Draft: Negative Declaration for Cosumnes River Preserve Management Plan

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The number of people entering the Visitor Center ranges from 20,000 to 25,000 on an annual basis. However, most regular visitors—typically bird watchers—enter the Preserve without coming into the Visitor Center first. It is estimated that the actual number of visitors is closer to 60,000 per year. The Preserve does experience steady, and at times heavy, public use. Peak recreation times are spring, early summer, and fall, which encompasses bird migration and the paddling season. Busloads of people visit every November for the sandhill crane season. On busy days, all three parking lots fill to capacity and overflow parking occurs on both sides of Franklin Boulevard. Due to the Preserve's proximity to growing urban areas (including Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Reno) and easy vehicular access from Interstate 5 and Highway 99, it is expected that future demands for recreational use, public access, and use of existing facilities will increase. Further compounding the growing population issue is

	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Potentially Significant Impact			

the fact that publicly accessible open space is limited. Although the Preserve is not actively pursuing an increase in visitor numbers, this is occurring by word of mouth and educational programs. The anticipated increase in visitors brings both challenges and opportunities to the Preserve. However, adverse impacts to traffic and transportation resulting from the proposed project are expected to be less than significant.

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:**

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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disposal needs?

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Groundwater-level decline can result in shifts in community population structure due to variations in plant tolerance to water table depth and sediment saturations. The Cosumnes River near Highway 99 has a system of perched aquifers, low permeability sediment layers that recharge quickly during floodplain inundation but drain slowly. Perched systems can provide a shallow water table to support riparian vegetation. However, thick riparian vegetation may diminish stream seepage to perched aquifers by as much as 30 percent due to evapotranspiration losses. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse impacts to utilities and service systems.

#### XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>